GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1337
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
RESTRICTIONS ON IHC STAFF IN DHAKA
Maheshwari Smt. Kiran;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Government imposed some restrictions on Indian High Commission staff in Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshashi;

(b) if so, the details and reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government with the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

a) Yes.

b) The Government of Bangladesh issued instructions that diplomats and officials of all diplomatic missions should inform the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs of any visit to places outside Dhaka giving at least 10 working days notice especially for visits to Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati hill districts in Chittagong Division of Bangladesh. The Ministry also requested that government owned rest houses, circuit houses, bungalows should be used during such visits. According to the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this was done to provide `appropriate security for the distinguished visitors`.

c) Our concern about the restrictions placed on the movements of our officials was conveyed by Foreign Secretary to the Bangladesh High Commissioner.